

Application #10/014,820  
Amendment dated April 20, 2006

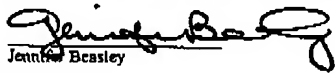
PATENT  
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APR 20 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/014,820  
Applicant : du Castel, et al.  
Filing Date : 12/11/2001  
Confirmation No. : 1681  
Art Unit : 2145  
Examiner : BHATHIA, Ajay M.  
Docket No. : 40.0050  
Customer No. : 41754

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8</b></p> <p>Date of Transmission: April 20, 2006</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to United States Patent and Trademark Office at fax no. 571/273-8300 addressed to the Commissioner for Patents on the date indicated above.</p> <p> Jennifer Beasley</p>
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**AMENDMENT, RESPONSE, AND SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.114**

Dear Sir:

In accompaniment to a Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, and in lieu of the pending appeal pursuant to the Notice of Appeal filed January 20, 2006, with a period to file an appeal brief extended to expire after April 20, 2006, and further in response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2006 please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

Each section begins on a separate sheet in accordance with the revised format practice.

Page 1 of 14

A50-4 RCEResponse v11.doc